Dear Jim, thanks for your note of 1/20 and the attached stories on Operation Bug Her Kiss. The explanations are as unreal as the incident. I think it is part of the largest-yet Nixon counterattack. I started a Ford as Agnew: Nixon's New Nixon file with his Farm Bureau speech but I did not then see all the ramifications that now are becoming visible. His need is great and his opportunity best thanks to the horrible mess he has made of everything, all his reficiencies and failures and errors now being assets in distracting from his criminality and giving everyone too much else to be worried about.

I had hoped a Chicagofriend who usually does would send Trib story but he hasn't. Odd that Morrer was reappointed after this.

And it all should be taken in the context of the inherent threat in Alsop's yesterday's.

The Scott ploy is interesting because he is a formed prosecutor and knows better. He cannot have seen any evidence that makes a perjurer of Dean. At best he can have been told of what may indicate Nixon at some points said what may tend to indicate he was not hep.

It is more intresting because Scott is in deep in a GSA scandal in Phila., with his former Adm. Asst not administrator of GSA. Or, he can be leaned on, with DJ weight.

Ziegler is back in the act, also an indication of the bigs guns now. I really do expect the dirtiest kind of stuff ever.

Imagine that dumdum Ford carrying it to where he referred to Nixon's own tape experts as "so-called experts!" That should turn anyone off. Particularly when so many agree so unanomously.

Of course, this helps Nixon in another way. There is no incentive after this kind of miserable stuff to consider Ford would be any improvement, a concept that may not have been out of the WH minds when they wrote his speech.

Did you notice that Mowrer was on NBC's Today Show and spoke on it only? Successive weeks at that.

Kissinger's promise that the Arabs would not end their embargo, apparently without agreement of the oil-producing governments, made exactly when needed in this new ploy. Of course the mebargo is not the thing anyway. It is more the curtailed production.

These guys know it is now or never and now is better than any recent time, so they are trying hard. I am sure they have an entire campaign carefully prepared. Look for The Old Nixon!

No problem with stories to spearate. Only too glad to get and I keep a scissors by my old chair at which I read. In fact, I clip there because there is no other space.

Also bearing on the timing of the new counterattack is even more signs of fear.

Each time they get away with something, each time they know something is suppressed, they are encouraged. Another example, if you recall my letters on this, is everyone's failure to note that there was no existence for a gift and hence no basis for even wondering if there could be a tax break without written GSA agreement. Merely taking about a "deed" is a deception. If there are any reservations or restrictions, they must be first found to be in the "public interest" by GSA's Administrator and then agreed to in writing as a basis of adherence and later enforcing of compliance (as with mem in court).

I decided to spell this out to Sussman today. I got out the government's papers in response to my suit CA 2569-70 and read him their quotes of their laws. He saw it is as I say but didn t see a story in it. I asked why wonder about the date and whether or not it is legal when at the very beginning, the very foundation, it was illegal because there was no gift under the law? No reaction. I suggested asking Archivist. Administrator, GSA, etc. I did not want to suggest obvious, vocal Morgan. He asked me only if I had given it to Mills. I said I had not, feeling they have to know the law they enacted. This is not only bedrock but the contract includes provision for indefinite suppression and for total repossession. Imagine GL planning for that! after taking a half-million off taxes for it. And nobody saying anything when this seems to be the issue that touched everyone who pays any taxes and especially those many who paid more with small incomes. I guess it also explains some of the Post's (non) reporting. (Like yesterday, Mathias saying of Scott, I wish he would not do such foolish things.) ...Sorry enclosed Szulc notes so hurried. Wanted to do first thing yesterday but couldn't because poor Lil had to go in too early. Fresher in mind then. I believe my suspicions are confirmed all over again. ...Krogh got off easy. I heard a Schorr tape of what Krogh said at Courthouse. Hope Post carried it verbatim because it was not understood. He did not exculpate Nixon at all. Especially not Whrlichman. His careful and probably prepared words must be taken literally and noted closely. And that never-again injunction goes with con carne. Like in a side show, with a barker and all. It is astounding. I believe Morgan, today's WSJ, as the possible if not the practise. This is also Krogh saying there is a time and a place...Best, HW 1/24/74